

DX LISTENING DIGEST 3-164, September 13, 2003
edited by Glenn Hauser

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NOTE: If you are a regular reader of DXLD, and a source of DX news but have not been sending it directly to us, please consider yourself obligated to do so. Thanks, Glenn

NEXT AIRINGS OF WORLD OF RADIO EXTRA 44:

RFPI: Sat 2330, Sun 0530, 1130, Mon 0030, 0630, 1230, Wed 0100, 0730, 1330 on 7445 [nominal times often delayed]

WWCR: Sun 0230 5070, 0630 3210, Wed 0930 9475

WRMI: Sun 1800+ 15725 (via IBC Radio)

WBCQ: Mon 0415 7415, maybe 5105

WINB: Thu 0130 9320

WRN: Europe only, Sun 0430; North America Sun 1400

WRN ONDEMAND:

<http://new.wrn.org/listeners/stations/station.php?StationID=24>

OUR ONDEMAND AUDIO [also for CONTINENT OF MEDIA, MUNDO RADIAL]:

Check <http://www.worldofradio.com/audiomid.html>

Audio stored at k4cc.net has been moved to a new site funxioning by 0400 UT Sept. 13. Many thanks to DAVE WHITE for providing this, with expanded bandwidth so older files will not have to be deleted for a while to accommodate new ones. Links on OUR CURRENT AUDIO page have been updated; older links including k4cc will no longer work.

WORLD OF RADIO EXTRA 44 (high version only):

(stream) <http://www.w4uvh.net/worx44h.ram>

(download) <http://www.w4uvh.net/worx44h.rm>

(summary) <http://www.worldofradio.com/worx44.html>

** AFGHANISTAN. Re 3-163: PsyOps transmissions ("Information Radio") in Dari and Pashto is currently reported on 9000 kHz. They are scheduled to be on the air 24h (Bernd Trutenau, Lithuania, Sept 11,

Cumbredx mailing list via DXLD) Reported by whom??

IBB's RMS system: <http://monitor.ibb.gov/rms>
(Bernd Trutenau, Lithuania, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** AUSTRALIA. HCJB frequency change from Sept. 15, for SAs morning service at 0100-0330 in English, first half hour in Urdu: 15555 ex-15420, which was working too well, interfering with RA in Indonesia (Dennis Adams, HCJB-Au, DX Partyline Sept 13 via gh, Alokesh Gupta, DXLD)

** BERMUDA [and non]. HAM RADIO KEPT BERMUDA CONNECTED WHEN ALL ELSE FAILED

Amateur Radio became a primary means of contact between Bermuda and the rest of the world as Hurricane Fabian swept across the island September 5, claiming at least four lives and causing extensive property damage in some areas. Authorities in Bermuda this week were assessing its extent. A dangerous category 3 storm, Fabian took out power to some 25,000 homes--about two-thirds of the island--as well as all radio and TV stations. Additionally, generator problems took the government's emergency FM station off the air for a time. Tony Siese, VP9HK, reports the police operations center was evacuated after the 120-MPH winds took off part of its roof.

Siese said the only contact with the outside world for a couple of hours was via hams like himself relaying information on 2 meters to HF operators and getting weather reports from the National Hurricane Center via the Hurricane Watch Net <http://www.hwn.org/> on 20 meters. He said that when the government emergency station returned to the air, amateurs provided it with updated National Hurricane Center reports from the HWN.

Hurricane Watch Net Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, reports his net on 14.325 MHz secured operations September 6 at 0300 UTC ``after a very long and busy day.'' Participating HWN volunteers feed ground-level weather data to forecasters via WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org/> at the National Hurricane Center. WX4NHC also operates with a volunteer staff. The weather data and information help meteorologists to develop more accurate storm forecasts.

``We had excellent assistance and vital communications from five VP9 hams who, unfortunately, had to resort to makeshift antennas and back-up battery power as the storm approached their locations,'' Pilgrim said. WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4JR, said that while news reporters on Bermuda found themselves uncharacteristically out of touch, ``old-fashioned'' ham radio HF technology got through. As he put it, ``brave Bermuda hams,

using car batteries, basic wire antennas and only 50 W of power, were able to send those valued 'surface reports' and receive vital hurricane advisories.'' Decent conditions on 20 meters also helped.

Also pitching in were Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) volunteers. ''The SATERN Net stood by two days at full alert monitoring for information from Bermuda as Hurricane Fabian raged through the island,'' said National SATERN Coordinator Pat McPherson, WW9E. SATERN Territorial Coordinator Rick Shirran, VE3NUZ/VP9, said that with power and telephone service down, ''the only communication that held up during the event was that of the members of the Radio Society of Bermuda via 2 meters, and HF on the Hurricane Watch Net and the SATERN Net.'' Shirran lost part of his own roof and the driven element to his antenna. He got back on the air using a makeshift antenna and power from a car battery.

Shirran said it could take more than two weeks to restore power to Bermuda. Telephone service ''remains tentative,'' he said at week's end. The airport was only open to daylight flights as of September 11.

Amateur Radio reports gathered September 7 by Dick Montgomery, N3DV, on the 20-meter Bermuda Net indicated many trees down, damage to docked boats and amateur antennas blown away, but power slowly being restored.

National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield expressed his sincere thanks to amateurs who supplied critical information during Fabian. ''We never would have known what was going on in Bermuda without your help,'' he said. ''You are a part of the hurricane team, and it is a pleasure to work with you.'' (ARRL Letter Sept 12 via John Norfolk, DXLD)

**** BRAZIL. NEW AND IMPROVED VOICE OF BRAZIL**

<http://www.brazzil.com/2003/html/news/articles/sep03/p108sep03.htm>

After seven decades on the air, the official radio program Voice of Brazil has just undergone its first radical transformation, with changes to its editorial content. According to its producers, the Voice is leaving the office and hitting the street, with reports based on the needs of listeners.

After nearly seven decades on the air, the Voice of Brazil (Voz do Brasil), the radio program with the largest audience in the country, received a new face, a new format, and new voices on September 1st. Nine million people listen to the Voice of Brazil every day. The program's reach extends from riverbank communities in the Amazon to offices along the most modern avenues of metropolitan centers like S,,o

Paulo.

The chief transformation is in the editorial content. The reports, which used to center around the activities and speeches of Federal Government Executive officials, now focus on the citizen. "The Voice of Brazil leaves the office and hits the street, with reports based on the needs of listeners," explains Helenise Brant, the program's new editor-in-chief.

"The Guarani," the Voice of Brazil's musical opening theme, received new versions prepared by maestro Sérgio S. Together with the musical tags that accompany the news stories, the opening theme, which is part of an opera of the same name written by Brazilian composer Carlos Gomes, will have variations in various Brazilian popular rhythms (forró, samba, choro, bossa-nova, capoeira, and moda de viola), as well as techno and drum and bass.

"The transformation of the Voice implied a change in sound," says S. "I had problems with the formal aspect of the program, and contributing to make it attractive was very interesting," he recounts.

The Voice of Brazil is now presented by four people. Besides the announcers Luciano Seixas and Luiz Fara Monteiro, journalists Kátia Sartorio and Leandro Fortes, both from Radiobrás, are also participating. The two of them will have the function of putting the news in context and making it more objective for the ordinary citizen.

It took nearly three months of studies, research, and try-outs to assemble the new format of the news show. This is the second editorial reform that has occurred in the program. In 1999, new musical tags were introduced, the announcing style became a bit less formal, and there were changes in the sections.

Now the program is starting a new chapter in its trajectory, which began in 1932, under the Administration of Getúlio Vargas, under the name A Hora do Brasil. The Voice has accompanied 24 Presidents, has already had three different names, and has reported the promulgation of four different Constitutions and eight changes in the currency. Radiobrás and BBC

At the end of July, Radiobrás and the BBC of London initiated a partnership that includes two daily five-minute bulletins, with news from BBC correspondents around the world for transmission by the National radio stations of Brasília, Rio de Janeiro, and the Amazon.

In the inaugural program, BBC correspondents in France, the United States, England, and Argentina reported on each government's reasons for reforming the social security system and the reactions of public

servants. The partnership was introduced by the News Directors of Radiobrás, Gustavo Krieger, and the BBC, Américo Martins.

According to the president of Radiobrás, Eugênio Bucci, the agreement is a landmark and a model. "This is just the first step in an institutional partnership which we hope will be long and fruitful. It is a landmark in the public information sector. It is part of our effort at Radiobrás to accomplish our mission, which is to provide Brazilians with quality information," declared Bucci.

Minister of Culture, Gilberto Gil, discussed recently the creation of an international TV channel for Brazilian government communication with president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Following the conversation Gil said that both he and the President were working on the project, "to open a channel of communication connecting Brazil with the world," and had decided to study the possibility in depth with the Government Communications Secretariat (Secom) and the Government Communications Corporation (Radiobrás).

The material for this article was supplied by Agência Brasil (AB), the official press agency of the Brazilian government (Brazzil - Media - September 2003 via Jill Dybka, DXLD) M-F 2200-2300 UT on most stations

** CHILE. 4755, R. Jerualen [sic], 2359, ID ``Radio Jerulan [sic], 90.1 FM Antofagasta e Iquique y el servicio [sic] satelital de Voz Cristiana``. Program of Christian music. New SW station, spur, image or new MW station? (Locatelli, Uruguay, Conexión Digital, undated, but probably July or August, via World Radio Report, Sept ODXA Listening In via DXLD)

I missed that one; are they trying to say ``Jerusalén``? Does seem like a Voz Cristiana mixing product, but what's the formula? (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** ECUADOR. HCJB has made some program changes and extended the morning-only English service to the Americas by half an hour, now 1100-1330 on 15115, since Sept 8. Precepts now occupies 1300-1330 M-F; Unshackled on Sat; Habitation, a locally-produced music and worship show on Sundays. And: Morning in the Mountains is back, but only for a brief period, a quarter hour instead of a sesquihour, M-F 1200-1215, with news, sports scores and music (Jeff Ingram, HCJB DX Partyline Sept 13 via Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST) See also AUSTRALIA

** ERITREA. 7100, V. of Broad Masses, 0355-0411, 13/09, Vernacular, IDs over HOA music at tune-in until 0359 then YL with talks, reggae style music at 0407 with brief YL talkovers. ID "loop?" matches beautifully with clip at intervalsignals.net!! Audible signal under sporadic "ham" chatter and static (Scott R. Barbour, Jr., Intervale,

NH, Sangean ATS 818, RF Systems MLB-1, RS longwire w/ RBA balun, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** INTERNATIONAL VACUUM. WORLDSPACE FOUNDATION BECOMES FIRST VOICE INTERNATIONAL ---

First Voice International <http://www.firstvoiceint.org> is the new name for the WorldSpace Foundation. There appears to be more to this than a simple name change, since the Web site says "First Voice International, as part of its transition from WorldSpace Foundation, is currently reconstituting [sic] its board of directors. Please check back in a couple of weeks for the official announcement of the new board." That was on Monday August 25th, which was more than a couple of weeks ago! The change has no consequences for the commercial operations of WorldSpace <http://www.worldspace.com> itself, as far as I can tell at this point (Andy Sennitt, Media Network blog Sept 12 via DXLD)

I see that the Worldspace website is still showing a footprint for Ameristar, with the caption "AmeriStar Satellite is expected to launch at a future date" That launch was postponed a considerable time ago, wasn't it? (RR RadioRob i 9/12/03; 5:21:36 AM, ibid.)

** INTERNATIONAL WATERS [non]. MV Communicator - news update 13 Sept

On 4 September Our Engineer arrived for another week on the ship. Janie and Dave joined him in Ijmuiden on 9 September to hold meetings with AVR, Main BV, Jim Iskes and the Harbourmaster. It was decided that she is to go in dry dock for refurbishment and a fresh paint before she returns to the UK.

Bert Hendricks and Colleague welded the windows and some power has been restored on board.

The sad news is that the CSI Laser 558 transmitters have had all the major parts stolen and cannot be used again. This happened after the removal of the Q transmitter in Pampshaven.

The Wheel and Compass have also been stolen in Pampushaven and if you have any information on these items or the transmitter parts please contact us.

Inspectors from the Dutch Administration will arrive shortly after the dry dock to present us with a loadline exemption certificate as we prepare to leave.

Our friends at Radio Caroline have asked us to feature in the next issue of Caroline magazine with exclusive pictures and information on

the struggle to "Save the Communicator". If you would like information regarding this magazine please contact Radio Caroline.
<http://www.mvcommunicator.com/8326.html>

Contact details:

The Super Station
Suite 449
305 Madison Avenue
New York NY 10165 USA

The official website is at <http://www.mvcommunicator.com/>

New photographs at: <http://www.offshore-radio.de/gallery.htm>
(via Mike Terry, DXLD)

** IRAN [non]. ANONYMIZER MAKES THE INTERNET A SAFER PLACE FOR IRANIAN CITIZENS --- Source: Anonymizer(R), Inc. 9/12/03
<http://www.payvand.com/news/03/sep/1068.html>

SAN DIEGO, Sept. 11 /PRNewswire/ -- AnonymizerÆ, Inc., a leading provider of anonymous Web surfing and online privacy protection, today announced new anti-censorship Web proxy services in Iran, enabling people to bypass government filtering and access information sources, including political and religious content. Currently, about two million citizens in Iran have Web access. Anonymizer has provided similar services to other countries, including China, with extremely positive results.

Iranian government officials blacklist forbidden sites that, for instance due to political and religious content, are considered dangerous. The United States International Broadcasting Bureau <http://www.ibb.gov> is funding the effort in their partnership with Anonymizer to utilize their core technology.

The way it works is that Anonymizer sends bulk e-mails and daily newsletters to the Iranian citizens addresses that are provided by human rights organizations. The IBB, in support of the Voice Of America Persian Service <http://www.voanews.com> and Radio Farda <http://www.radiofarda.com> are sponsoring the effort to provide this easily accessible service. The generic URLs for the anti-censorship services are publicized over the Radio Farda and VOA Persian broadcasts. The URLs are changed when they become blocked by the Iranian Government, so that Iranian citizens can continue to get unfiltered, unblocked local and world news.

"The links to the service provided within the emails point to either the VOA or Radio Farda sites, but they can go anywhere on the

Internet," said Ken Berman, program manager for Internet Anti-censorship activities at the IBB. "Dissident sites, religious sites, the L.L. Bean catalog -- they are free to explore the Internet as they wish, in an unfettered fashion."

"By providing a means for these people to visit the sites that are blocked by their government while remaining anonymous, we're making the Internet a safer place as well as offering the freedoms that they should be afforded," said Lance Cottrell, president and founder of Anonymizer. "This project brings forth the full potential of the Internet bringing free speech and democracy to the world." For more information and to speak with a company representative about this story, please call Paula Dunne at 408-776-1400 or email at paula@contosdunne.com (Payvand's Iran News via Jilly Dybka, DXLD)

** IRELAND. RT... POSTPONES LAUNCH OF LONGWAVE SERVICE

Ray Woodward forwards a press release from Irish public broadcaster RT... to the effect that the target launch date for its longwave service has been postponed for three months, and may even not happen. According to the press release:

"The decision whether to proceed awaits a review by RT... of the overall distribution of our radio services on terrestrial and digital platforms and of the costs involved in a long wave service. That review is ongoing and is expected to conclude in October. The target start date has therefore been revised to the 1 January 2004."

Tests will continue, however, and this Sunday there's a special transmission:

"This Sunday 14 September sees a significant test of the coverage and potential of the new service. For Sunday afternoon the LW 252 signal will be brought to its full power of 500kw and will carry Radio 1's coverage of the All Ireland Hurling Final at 2pm. It is expected that the transmission of this event will generate interest in the potential of the service and will enable RT... to gather data on the reach and quality of the 252 signal. It is envisioned that this test would then be repeated on Sunday 28 September to enable transmission of the All Ireland Football Final." The full text of the press release is at www.rte.ie/about/organisation/releases/pr_longwave_test120903.html (Media Network blog Sept 12 via DXLD)

** IRELAND [non]. Glenn, I have copied and pasted the following information from RTE's website re the All Ireland Hurling and Gaelic Football Finals for your listeners information:

RT... ALL IRELAND HURLING AND FOOTBALL FINALS 2003

The Frequencies for the All Ireland Hurling and Football Finals have now been arranged and generally are similar to last year, they are in the same frequency bands, with a few minor changes. The schedule will run from 1425 to 1625 GMT Sunday 14th and 28th September 2003.

N. America 13785

C & S America 15275

W Africa 17860

NE Africa & Middle East 21590

Far East & SE Asia 7485

(Paul Guckian, Ennis, Co Clare, Ireland, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** JAPAN. Full data QSL card received from Nihon SW Broadcasting Co. Ltd (Radio Tampa), within 11 days after a snail mail report on 9595 kHz. All the emails bounced back. 73's (Swopan Chakroborty, Kolkata, India, Sept 13, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** JORDAN. Hi Graham, I see what you mean by the frequency change...? error...? Radio Jordan is blasting through on 11960 kHz here in Guernsey Channel Isles. (UK) 1555 UT, (SI0: 555). I notice that they do use this frequency from 0500 to 0710 UT, Arabic to EEU/ME. So my guess, like you, is that someone pulled the wrong switch. Interesting catch though - if it's a mistake... 73 RAO (Robin Banneville, SWBC via DXLD)

11960: Jordan's fairly listenable here, too, in the Pacific NW USA near Seattle. I'm hearing it on the backside of my western Beverage antenna (Guy Atkins, Puyallup, WA USA, 1629 UT Sept 12, swbc via DXLD)

Great signal here in south Italy; they used 11960 at 0500 UT in Arabic (Roberto Scaglione, Sicily, 1631 UT Sept 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Checked next day around 1330, but no chance with HCJB on 11960 (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Glenn, Radio Jordan from Al Karanah, Jordan, noted with its English programme back on its correct frequency of 11690 kHz today (Sept 13th) at 1300 with news bulletin and pop music. It would appear that yesterday's transmission on 11960 kHz must have been a one off switching error by the station (Graham Powell, Wales, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Sorry --- the Jordan operation was a one day thing. Was back on 11690 kHz. Probably the operator forgot to tune to 11690 yesterday after the Arabic service (Victor G., Sri Lanka, Sept 13, SWBC via DXLD)

** MALTA. See CONVENTIONS & CONFERENCES below

** MEXICO [non]. 15045, Radio Free Cascadia Int., 11 de septiembre del 2003, Alrededor de las 0330 UT [del 12 sept] sintonic  una se al con un espantoso ruido; al fondo se escuchaba como consignas o gritos, incomprensibles. Pasados de las 0400 escuch  con un poco de m s claridad, m sica variada; me pareci  escuchar canciones de nativos de norteam rica, cantos de protestas, revolucionarias, como por ejemplo de los que cantaban los sandinistas en la d cada de los a os ochenta. En las otras frecuencias mencionadas, no sintonic  nada. Saludos (H ctor Garc a Bojorge, M xico DF, Conexi n Digital via DXLD)

CLANDESTINE from MEXICO? to EARTH, 15044.97, Radio Free Cascadia (tentative) reception a bit better today, most of the music is audible, some of the speech, all this 2030-2200 Sept 12 (Hans Johnson, Cody WY, Cumbredx mailing list via DXLD)

They weren't there at just before 1700, then were on frequency shortly after 1700. Poor signal for the most part, but improving later on in the hour. English ID heard at 1752 during a peak in the broadcast. Clearly heard a prerecorded broadcast cut into, then a strong hum (poor audio quality) as a M announcer gave a Radio Free Cascadia International ID and the purpose for them being on the air. I believe they also gave the frequency (kilohertz mentioned). First half hour of broadcast was music. Virtually most if not all talking was in English (John Sgrulletta, Mahopac, NY, ibid.)

2215 guitar music and commentary. Similar fades as yesterday. Occasional ute interference, 73's (Bob Wilkner, FL, ibid.)

Last night (9/11, 2341+) they were in Spanish at 15044.97, thanks for phone alert from Gerry Bishop. A huge CW signal appeared atop them for awhile; anyone know what that was?

Tonight (9/12, 2125+) they were in Spanish, but recheck had English monotone M (reminding me of a vocal version of the old Cuban CW "Boring Man" spy) with his daily report on WTO atrocities, and closer to 15045.05.

Modulation is rather low, but clean and QRM free, save for that CW episode. Frequency is odd, almost making me want to believe it really could be from Yuccaville (Terry Krueger, FL, DX LISTENING DIGEST) ??

Further monitoring of RFCI here Sept 12-13 on 15045: at 2315 ID in Spanish; 0015 interviews in English from Canc n; 0048 ID in passing, phone interview with poor audio. 0059 Full ID by YL in English, mentioning audio difficulties, and would have to download material instead of live cellphone calls; broadcasting to Mexico, Central and South America, until Sept. 14, ``from an organic farm, in solidarity.

. .'', also mentioned being heard in China, and tonight would be on 15045 until 0500. Usual signal here is 20 over 9. 0130 started ``Voces de Libertad`` program from Los Angeles, and relayed in Santa Barbara on 98.7, about the desaparecidas in Ciudad Juarez, song ``Los L deres Traidores``; still good at 0200, later than last night, but about faded out upon 0300 recheck (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

RFCI forwarded a reception report from China, which must have used a machine translator, if they exist for Chinese-English, plus these details:

Name: Tao Jie
Country: China
Listen place: ChongQing, China
Receiver: Tecsun-PL-757
Antenna:TECSUN_AN2000
Date:11/09/2003
UTC: 18:15---18:30
Language: Spanish
Frequency: 15045 KHz
SINPO: 33443
(via gh, DXLD)

14960 (spur), R. Free Cascadia International, 2300 Sept 12, Spur at fair level with readable audio. The 15045 fundamental was undermodulated with slight distortion, yet strong carrier. Checked multiples of 85 kHz and could find no other spurs other than the one 85 kHz down from the fundamental. ID in Spanish at 2322 (David Hodgson, TN, harmonics yahoo groups via DXLD)

Real Nice reception of Radio Free Cascadia this evening --- 15045. Radio Free Cascadia, Clandestine??? Costa Rica [sic --- not] Sept/12/03 2335-2355 UT, VG Low Audio. Angry Punk Rock Protest Music at 2335-38. More Protest music @2338-42. Female with Nursery Rhyme 3 Little Pigs --- But filled in with Protest anti Government Slogans like "Go to Hell you Materialistic Oppressors" and "Protest to the United Nations" and "Complain to Internal Affairs. More Protest Music at 2347-2352. Nice Long ID by Male Announcer at 2352 UT as "You are Listening to Radio Free Cascadia International on 15.045 Mhz AM. We are Protesting against the World Trade Organization and are for all others who are protesting Oppression. Mentioned Direct Action to Resistance of Solidarity?? (Not Verbatim). Into more Protest Rock Music. Signal best on 20 Meter Dipole. Some Fading but generally VG Signal with Low Audio at times, and Nice Clear Audio at times! Are we calling this Clandestine????? (Robert S. Ross, VA3SW, London, Ontario, CANADA N6A5K1, ODXA via DXLD)

15044.99 Radio Free Cascadia, 2335+, September 12/13. English. Short

commentaries by male & female in English. Announcement. Music. At 0100 ID by female as: "...Radio Free Cascadia...", 24322 (Arnaldo Slaen, Argentina, Cumbredx mailing list via DXLD)

Readable signal was listened here in Buenos Aires on 15045, from 0016 to 0055 with English comments and music more clear the music than the comments, some fades and ute QRM, and also some ham, mention Canc'n and man announcer give and address and probably mention Radio Free Cascadia (Nicol's Eramo, Argentina, UT Sept 13, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Ayer, 12 de septiembre del 2003, escuché un poco mejor la transmisión de "Radio Free Cascadia Internacional", con un ruido y con pocos desvanecimientos. Se escuchó mejor entre 15045 y 15044 kHz. Con música, Alrededor de las 0345 UT, un locutor hablando en español identificó la emisora "Esta es Radio Libre Cascadia, transmitiendo en contra de la OMC que se esta celebrando en Canc'n, México...", y presentaba las canciones que iban a tocar, leyó hasta poemas. A las 0400 el locutor pidió informes de recepción, por que aún estan haciendo pruebas. Y dió dos direcciones para enviar su correo electrónico: radio985@e... [truncated] y su correo postal:

RFCI, P.O. Box 703, Eugene, OR 97440 EE.UU

También el locutor comentaba que su país ha estado en guerra con varios países. En las ultima horas de transmisión cambiaron al idioma inglés. A las 0502 terminaron sus transmisiones, "Radio Free Cascadia International, Radio Libre Cascadia Internacional, Signing off" Saludos (Héctor García Bojorge, DF, Conexión Digital via DXLD)

15045.00 kHz, 0300 UT with Spanish giving ID as: "Radio Rebelde Libre". I have a recording of an address in Florida [??] and also an e-mail address but I have to check it out tomorrow. Fine signal, LA-music and talking a lot of the "Zapatistas" in México. 73 de (Björn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

[Later:] Amigos DXistas! 15045.00 kHz "Radio Rebelde Libre Internacional":

P. O. Box 703, Eugene OR 97440 U.S.A. E-mail: Radio985@efn.org

Recording/ Grabación: <http://homepage.sverige.net/~a-0901/>

(Björn Malm, Quito, Ecuador, Sept 13, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

No recording there of that yet when checked at 1717 UT Sept 13, but I never heard them ID as ``Rebelde``. RFCI was again on 15045 when checked at 1701, rather weak. If like previous days, signal will build as day progresses. Dxing.info did a rewrite about this too:

<http://www.dxing.info/news/index.dx#rfci>

(Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** NEPAL. MAOISTS LAUNCH FM RADIO STATION ACROSS NEPAL | Text of report by Nepalnews.com web site on 13 September

Maoists are launching FM radio station, namely Jana-awaj, across the country and also in Kathmandu Valley from next week onwards, a published report said Saturday [13 September]. The FM (frequency modulation) radio will have three broadcast stations inside Nepal, a news report in Rajdhani daily said, quoting undisclosed Maoist sources. The radio can be heard at 95.1 megahertz in any of the general FM radio sets found in the market, said the report. "The radio will air all activities of Maoists, voices from the villages and news of international revolutionaries, among others." A "test transmission" of FM radio in Swargadwari of Pyuthan and Rolpa [both in mid-western region] was clearly heard in the area, the report said, quoting locals. Source: Nepalnews.com web site, Kathmandu, in English 13 Sep 03 (via BBCM via DXLD)

** NEW ZEALAND. La estaci n ZLXA, Radio Reading Service, tambi n conocida como "Radio for the Print Disabled", opera en idioma ingl s difundiendo programas educativos y de aprendizaje radial durante las 24 Hs por la frecuencia de 3935 KHz. Aqu  en Sudamerica la emisora es audible por las ma anas, alrededor hasta su desvanecimiento, de acuerdo a las condiciones de propagaci n. La emisora verifica con una hermosa tarjeta QSL y material informativo, si junto al reporte se adjunta US\$ 1.00 como m nimo, para asegurarse la respuesta. QTH: R. Reading Service, ZLXA, P.O.Box 360, Levin 5500, Nueva Zelanda. E-mail: nzrpd@x... [truncated] Web: <http://www.radioreading.org> (Marcelo A. Cornachioni, Argentina, Conexi n Digital Sept 12 via DXLD)

** OKLAHOMA. FCC ASKS POWER COMPANY TO TRY HARDER TO RESOLVE NOISE COMPLAINTS

The FCC has asked American Electric Power Company of Columbus, Ohio, to take a closer look at several power line noise complaints and try harder to resolve them. The cases involve complaints from four Amateur Radio operators in Ohio, Indiana and Oklahoma.

``While we certainly appreciate the considerable effort that AEP afforded this matter, we are puzzled by the lack of results,`` FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote August 26 in a letter to AEP Senior Vice President Marsha P. Ryan. ``In most cases, a noise source can be located easily by trained personnel using the proper equipment.`` . . .

MC CLOUD, HOWARD D, KC5RGC (General)

Howard McCloud, KC5RGC, of [6014 E 57TH PL, TULSA, OK 74135-8120] reported power line noise last April and identified its source for AEP

as utility lines about a mile from his station. McCloud was not aware that AEP had attempted to correct it, Hollingsworth wrote. ``AEP now apparently maintains that the source of the noise is McCloud's antenna, even when it is disconnected and on the ground,`` a conclusion Hollingsworth labeled ``patently defective.`` McCloud reports relatively strong noise on HF that continues 24/7.

Hollingsworth asked AEP to ``revisit each of these cases`` and to update the FCC within 45 days of any progress in each case. He also referred the power company to ARRL RFI Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG, for technical assistance in resolving the cases (ARRL Letter Sept 12 via John Norfolk, OKCOK, DXLD)

** PARAGUAY. 6105, R. 1 de Marzo, Asunci n, Paraguay. M's info sobre esta frecuencia. Escuchada en esta frecuencia el d a 21/08/03 0300-0330*. Programa "Deporte Total", transmisi n deportiva desde la ciudad de Encarnaci n. Varias Id's. Sobre el cierre se identific  como "...sta es la Mega Cadena de Comunicaci n compuesta por... (detalle de las emisoras componentes)...". Cierre abrupto.

Captada tambi n el 24/08/03 0300-0330* con las mismas transmisiones deportivas, varias Id's, ads y servicios informativos del departamento de prensa de Radio 1 de Marzo. A las 0330 se hizo cargo de la transmisi n una emisora local de FM que se identific  como: "Desde ciudad Presidente Franco transmite Paran  FM 98.5 Mhz." que continu  en el aire hasta las 0503* con m sica pop latina identific ndose cada 30 minutos. Cierre abrupto.

Escuchada por  ltima vez el 30/08/03 0315-0320*. M sica pop latina. ID "...sta es la n mero uno, 98.5 Paran  FM". Ads. Cierre abrupto.

Nota: Lo extra o es la claridad de la se al y ninguna de las habituales brasile as que ocupan esta frecuencia;  stas reci n aparec an cuando se apagaba el transmisor paraguayo. He buscado en viejos registros y en ning n lado aparece esta frecuencia registrada por Radio 1 de Marzo o alguna otra emisora paraguaya (Daniel Camporini, Argentina, Conexi n Digital Sept 12 via DXLD)

** PERU. LIMA --- El profugo ex Presidente Alberto Fujimori tendr  su propio programa en la radio peruana, en el que analizar  desde Tokio la pol tica nacional, seg n anunci  ayer en Lima su portavoz Carlos Raffo. "La Voz del Chino", que se transmitir  todos los s bados en la ma ana durante una hora en la emisora lime a Radio Miraflores, pretende ser el inicio de una cadena radial nacional en la que se exponga el pensamiento del ex mandatario, a adi  el publicista (El Mercurio, Chile, 12/09/03, via Gabriel Iv n Barrera, Conexi n Digital via DXLD)

Aquí una curiosa información. Programa radial de Fujimori. Radio Miraflores, emite en 96.1 MHz, desde Lima. 73's (GIB, ibid.)

FUJIMORI LANZAR; PROGRAMA RADIAL EN PER/

Reuters 11 de Septiembre, 2003

<http://www.unionradio.com.ve/noticias/internacionales/Notaint2003091120417.htm>

El ex presidente peruano Alberto Fujimori, refugiado en Japón tras ser destituido en medio de un escándalo de corrupción, lanzará un programa semanal de radio para apoyar su regreso a la escena política y defenderse de las acusaciones en su contra, dijo el jueves su portavoz.

"La hora del Chino", en alusión al apodo que usaba Fujimori por sus rasgos orientales, será el nombre de su espacio que saldrá al aire a partir del sábado a través de una emisora radial limeña, informó el portavoz del ex mandatario, Carlos Raffo.

El programa será emitido por la radio "Miraflores" y tendrá una hora de duración, dijo el propietario de la radioemisora Ricardo Palma.

"Fujimori me llamó un día a las 3 de mañana cuando dormía y pensé que era la broma de algún amigo y me retó a que le diera un espacio", dijo Palma a Reuters.

Según Palma, el costo del alquiler de una hora a la semana en su emisora es de entre 500 a 600 dólares mensuales.

Fujimori difundirá en su programa al menos cuatro mensajes pregrabados de unos siete minutos cada uno sobre diferentes temas políticos y de "interés nacional"; y será también un vehículo de defensa frente a las acusaciones en su contra, afirmó Raffo.

El ex mandatario enfrenta un proceso de extradición acusado de ser coautor de la matanza de 25 personas, entre ellas un niño, a manos de un comando militar que operaba en la sombra, según investigaciones judiciales.

Pese a las acusaciones en su contra, Fujimori mantiene un 31 por ciento de popularidad frente al sólo 12 por ciento que ostenta el presidente Alejandro Toledo entre la población peruana, según un sondeo de la encuestadora Apoyo.

Sin embargo, un 66 por ciento cree que Fujimori es corrupto y 49 por ciento piensa que ordenó las matanzas.

"Fujimori es el principal protagonista del programa", dijo Raffo, tras afirmar que el espacio radial será financiado por "gente amiga" del ex

presidente en Per' (via Dario Monferini, Italy, DXLD)

IDIOTEZ HUMANAS --- Ciao! non c'È limite alla idiozia umana. In Italia abbiamo Gabrielli; in Per~, Radio Miraflores. However this WEB <http://www.radiomiraflores.com/> doesn't work anymore nor the real audio. Probably the station has been bought by the Fujimori gangsters living in LIMA (Dario Monferini, Italy, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** SOUTH AMERICA. SOUTH AMERICAN PIRATES --- Times UT. RADIO COCHIGUAZ will be active this weekend hoisting the pirate flag, on 11430 kHz USB, relaying on this opportunity to RADIO CAROLINE EIFEL, from Germany.

Sat, 13 September 2003, 2000-2100, Radio Caroline

Sun, 14 September 2003, 0200-0300, Radio Caroline

For reports write to: (Pls add return postage)
SRS-Germany, Radio Caroline Eifel, Box 1136, 06201 Merseburg, GERMANY.
Radio Cochiguaz, Box 159, Santiago 14, CHILE.

FFFR, ;-) Cachito, Radio Cochiguaz op.

<http://www.geocities.com/rcochiguaz>

(via Radio Strike, BCLnews.it via DXLD)

** UGANDA [non]. Glad to note Radio Rhino International Africa with s/on 1502 UT on 17555 kHz broadcasting in English. This broadcast is beamed to Uganda via transmitter in Germany by DTK. Pretty good reception in spite of splashes from Chinese speaking station on 17560 kHz. Nice IDs like from R Rhino... like this: "This is the Voice of Freedom and Democracy". 73¥s (Jouko Huuskonen, Turku, FINLAND, Sept 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Media Item: Uganda - Radio Rhino International-Africa

From: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200309090708.html>

REFORM AGENDA WELCOMES GERMAN-BASED RADIO

New Vision (Kampala)

NEWS September 9, 2003 Posted to the web September 9, 2003

By Geresom Musamali, Kampala

[portion already quoted by BBCM in 3-163 omitted here; q.v.]

. . .RA environment secretary Kagulire Ssebowa and David Kanyerezi, the RA youth league chairman, were present. Ssebowa said the Movement director of information, Ofwono Opondo, confirmed what RA said about the harassment of its supporters. Opondo said on Capital Gang on Saturday said Uganda had very good relations with the African National Congress, South Africa's ruling political party. He said South

African-based Besigye's activities were therefore being monitored by the Government of Uganda (via Ullis R. Fleming, Maryland USA, Sept 10, Cumbre DX via DXLD)

** U K. A reminder that the Last Night of The Proms is upon us, Sat Sept 13; details of special SW frequencies from BBCWS were 3-159; 1830-2200 UT; also webcast on BBC Radio 3, with a less formal(?) version on BBC Radio 2; and webcast with video from BBC (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U K. JOHN PEEL'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

In April this year The Guardian reported <http://books.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,12084,929585,00.html> that John Peel, who spent five days choosing between offers from HarperCollins and Transworld for his memoirs, finally picked Transworld. The company paid £1.6m as an advance payment of the royalties his book might earn. He will get the money in three or four portions: a tranche on signature of the contract, another on delivery of the manuscript, another on publication in 2005, and possibly a further one on publication of a paperback edition. I have it on good authority that Transworld are still due to publish it in 2005. Pity it's taking so long (Mike Terry, UK, Sept 13, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. WBCQ is celebrating its 5th anniversary on the air; caught part of Allan Weiner Worldwide. Says Jewish Radio Network, with Rabbi Spivak, keeps expanding, currently scheduled (always in EDT, always converted here to UT): M-F 1600-2000 on 9330; Wed/Thu/Fri 0100-0200 7415; Mon 2200-2230 7415; Sun 1800-2000 7415.

Area 51 is a WBCQ production on 5105 Sunday nights, 2200-0400 UT Mons; the time is reserved and not sold. Allan would like to program WBCQ this way 24/7, and would do so if a million dollar grant were forthcoming, part of which would be applied to a worldwide advertising campaign to publicize SW and WBCQ. First hour 2200-2300 presents vintage Jean Shepherd shows, as put together from many sources by Michael Ketter. Some of these do not exist anywhere else; complete and uncut. At 2300-2400 hopes to begin a new astronomy or science show this week. Rest of time 0000-0300 is open for a variety of shows from 'BCQ, TimTron, Complex Variables Studios, etc. Tasha Takes Control has moved to Sat [UT Sun?], so immediately following AWWW UT Sat at 0100 on 7415, is now 'Radio Reaxion Theatre', skits and bits (Allan Weiner Worldwide, WBCQ 7415, UT Sat Sept 13 0000-0100, notes by Glenn Hauser for DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. UNITED PATRIOT RADIO - ANDERSON SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS ON WEAPONS CHARGES --- "He is sorry for the things he said on his short-wave radio program, which caused a great deal of alarm..."

From The Associated Press

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20030912/APN/309121017>

LONDON, Kentucky. -- Steve Anderson, a former militia member who shot a deputy sheriff's cruiser and eluded capture for more than a year, was sentenced to 15 years in prison on Friday.

Anderson, 55, of Pulaski County, pleaded guilty in May to various federal firearms charges, including illegal possession of a machine gun, carrying and firing a gun during a crime of violence and possessing unregistered firearms.

He was sentenced before U.S. District Judge Danny Reeves.

As Anderson was driving home from a gathering of white supremacists in North Carolina in October 2001, he was pulled over in Bell County by deputy sheriff Scott Elder because of a broken taillight. Elder saw ammunition in the truck and asked whether Anderson had guns with him. Anderson then riddled the deputy's cruiser with at least 20 bullets.

Elder was not hurt and shot back before Anderson drove into the hills of eastern Kentucky.

When police searched Anderson's home after the shooting, they found illegal weapons, including a machine gun and silencer, a sawed-off rifle, two homemade bombs and 25 fragmentation grenades, according to a federal indictment.

Federal agents arrested Anderson in Cherokee County, N.C. in November 2002. A tipster called investigators after Anderson appeared on the television show "America's Most Wanted."

Anderson was once a member of the Kentucky State Militia. The organization said it dismissed Anderson because he made inflammatory comments about the U.S. government, blacks, Jews and immigrants over an unlicensed radio station he operated from his Pulaski County home.

David Tapp, Anderson's attorney, told Reeves on Friday that Anderson was remorseful.

"He is sorry for the things he said on his short-wave radio program, which caused a great deal of alarm, and he is very sorry for his actions in Bell County which led to his imprisonment," Tapp said. "I think the court accepted his apologies and I think the government accepted them as well. I believe he is sincere." September 12. 2003 6:44PM (via Mike Terry, David Zantow N9EW0, Janesville, WI, DXLD)

EX-MILITIA MEMBER APOLOGIZES

He fired on deputy; sentence is 15 years

By Bill Estep, SOUTH-CENTRAL KENTUCKY BUREAU, Sept 13

<http://www.kentucky.com/mld/heraldleader/6760816.htm>

LONDON - A former Kentucky State Militia member who shot at a deputy and fled into the mountains nearly two years ago apologized yesterday for the attack and for his radio broadcasts of extremist views. Stephen H. Anderson, of rural Pulaski County, said during a hearing in federal court that he'd experienced a "spirit of revival" since he was caught last year.

"For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God," Anderson said, quoting the Epistle of James. "My actions were wrong -- bad wrong," he told U.S. District Judge Danny C. Reeves. "What I said was very wrong and I apologize for that."

Anderson, 56, was in court to be sentenced on numerous weapons violations, including possession of an illegal machine gun and several homemade bombs. He told Reeves he looked forward to being a witness for Christ behind bars, "so whatever you give me, praise God." Reeves gave him 15 years. Anderson will have to serve at least 85 percent of that time.

The judge did give Anderson a break on one set of weapons charges, sentencing him to 60 months instead of the maximum of 71. One other charge -- shooting at the deputy -- carried a 120-month sentence. Anderson's attorney, David A. Tapp of Somerset, had urged the judge to impose the low end of the sentencing range, saying that Anderson had done mission work on a Sioux reservation while on the run, that he had a strong work ethic, and that he candidly admitted his mistakes.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Martin Hatfield said he hoped Anderson's new attitude is sincere. But he reminded the judge that two people could have been killed in the attack on the deputy, whose girlfriend was with him in the cruiser when Anderson opened fire. Reeves said he thought Anderson is a changed man.

In addition to sentencing Anderson to 15 years, the judge placed him on four years supervised release after prison, ordered mental-health treatment, and barred him from owning a gun or destructive device. Reeves also said he would honor Anderson's request to recommend that he serve his time at a Talladega, Ala., prison that has training available to further his woodworking skills. Anderson has worked as an electrician and carpenter. "Thank you, sir. God bless you," said Anderson, who was upbeat during the hearing.

Before October 2001, he was best-known for a shortwave radio program

broadcast from his home, espousing racist, anti-government anti-Semitic and sometimes violent views. Concerned groups said Anderson's programs were among the most vitriolic on the airwaves. The paramilitary Kentucky State Militia kicked Anderson out because of some of his views, members told the Herald-Leader.

On Oct. 14, 2001, Scott Elder, then a deputy in Bell County, stopped Anderson's pickup truck -- which was marked as a militia vehicle -- because a taillight wasn't working. Later comments to federal agents, included in court records, indicated that Anderson might have been out on the lookout for terrorists in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

"The militia is going to be the last line of defense," he said. "You need a gun behind every blade of grass in this country."

Anderson riddled Elder's cruiser with bullets from an assault rifle. Elder took cover and was not hurt; his girlfriend was slightly injured. Anderson later said he was a crack shot and could have killed Elder, but fired on the cruiser only to keep the deputy from chasing him because he feared Elder would overreact and shoot him during the traffic stop. "I could have Swiss-cheesed him," Anderson said.

He fled the shooting, abandoned his truck in the mountains and set off on foot. He had a .45-caliber pistol and carried a survival pack that included maps, packaged military meals and other food, he later told federal agents. Anderson indicated that he walked and hitchhiked his way to North Carolina, living off the land at times. "Camping. Riverbanks. Fish. Rabbits. It's easy," he said. He didn't say why he went to North Carolina.

Police found pipe bombs and several thousand rounds of ammunition in Anderson's truck. At his home, authorities found homemade bombs, more than two dozen grenades ready to be filled with explosive material and with fuses installed, two dozen guns, and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

Anderson eluded capture for more than a year. Federal agents finally caught him in North Carolina's Cherokee County in November, living under an alias, after the America's Most Wanted TV program aired information on him and someone phoned in a tip (Lexington Herald-Leader via DXLD)

Still nothing posted as of Sept 13 from the Somerset Commonwealth-Review, which also covered the Anderson story, but WKYT adds this brief item: (gh, DXLD)

MILITIA MEMBER SENTENCED

<http://www.wkyt.com/Global/story.asp?S=1440316&nav=4CAKHxna>

A judge has sentenced a former Kentucky militia member to 15 years in prison on federal weapons charges. Stephen Anderson told the court any sentence would be a blessing because he wants to minister while in prison. He also asked to serve his sentence in Taladega, Florida because the prison there has a wood shop. The judge says it wouldn't be a problem however it's up to bureau of prisons. Anderson spent a year in jail after shooting at a Bell County sheriff's deputy (WKYT Lexington KY via DXLD)

** U S A. 2180, KAAV Little Rock, AR (2 x 1090), 0753 Sept 13, Fair 2nd harmonic, strong fundamental. Religious programing. ID in Spanish and English at 0800 (David Hodgson, TN, harmonics yahoogroup via DXLD)

** U S A [non]. SIXTY YEARS OF AFN IN EUROPE

Review of: AFN Europe 60th Anniversary
Ingo Paternoster and John Proven, (LC 02319; ISBN 0-945794-12-6)
by Hans Knot <http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/VOLUME06/AFN60UK.html>
(via Mike Terry, DXLD)

** U S A. COURT KICKS NEW YORK HAM'S ``POLICE RADIO`` CASE

A New York court has dismissed a misdemeanor charge against ARRL member Richard C. ``Dick`` Lalone, KC5GAX, for violating §397 of that state's Vehicle and Traffic Law. That section prohibits individuals other than law officers from equipping their vehicles with radios ``capable of receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for police use`` without first securing a permit. The section, which also prohibits knowingly interfering with police transmissions, contains an explicit exemption for ``any person who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license --- and who operates a duly licensed portable mobile transmitter and in connection therewith a receiver or receiving set on frequencies exclusively allocated --- to duly licensed radio amateurs.`` In a nearly 1300-word decision, Judge John J. Hallet said it was clear the legislature never intended the provisions of §397 from applying to licensed Amateur Radio operators, and he dismissed the charge August 5. Susan Terry, KF4SUE, a former New York assistant attorney general, represented Lalone. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist John Hennessee, N1KB, provided advice or assistance to Lalone (ARRL Letter Sept 12 via John Norfolk, DXLD)

Someone asked me recently for a follow-up on this case, which I did not have at the time. I hope he is reading this (gh, DXLD)

** U S A. Yes, I said 700 --- even though the facility being tested

will ultimately be using 720. "WV2X0A" is the callsign being used at the moment, and it's running 1000 watts into a single (unfenced!) tower at the end of a gravel road alongside I-81 in Lafayette, about 10 miles south of downtown Syracuse. Dead carrier - except for twice an hour when a voice ID comes on, "Testing on 700 kilohertz, this is station WV2X0A." Checked out the site today - just the tower, a transmitter inside a tent, and a generator perched in a little U-Haul trailer under a canopy. This will eventually be WVOA DeWitt, running ND daytime on 720 from the WOLF-1490 facility on Kirkpatrick Street, and nighttime with SIX towers and 390 watts (!) from this Lafayette site. It makes it to Rochester, just barely... s (Scott Fybush, NY, NRC-AM via DXLD)

Scott, Do you think they will run 700 tests at night, or near sunset-sunrise? Or just daytime. And why do you think they would test on 700 when planning to use 720? (Saul Chernos, ON, *ibid.*)

Saul, I hope not. As DE of WLW I would have a problem with that. But it might be there at critical hours. I would suspect they have an Special Temporary Authorization (STA) to operate it daytime only. I can find no record of that call sign on line though. But that is not really surprising. Usually these type of stations are set up to test for ground conductivity and conductivity breaks at a certain site and frequency. 700 is close enough to 720 to produce valid test numbers for their site. And will allow the 720 to operate undisrupted. I have been involved in several of these tests. On 610 in Columbus, and 1150 in L.A. We used a 100 foot Rohn 25 tower series fed and a 5 kw transmitter running at 1 kw. These tests actually eliminated a site in LA that we found was too far out of town to be effective. Even though the "text book" said it should work. You can bet there are guys running field strength readings on that transmitter. I am surprised the tower was unguarded. We kept the site manned while it was operating at all times. Just to keep onlookers from harm and make sure all was well. And the generator had gas and oil. Sort of like field day (Paul Jellison, WLW, *ibid.*)

It looked very field-day-esque (is that a word?) when I stopped by yesterday. Craig Fox, the owner/engineer, has been around the site; he was there when Rick Lucas visited on Sunday. Perhaps he just had to run out and get gas or oil for the generator (Fybush, *ibid.*)

Scott, do the announcements come at predictable times? I hear a carrier on 700 that is perhaps strong enough to produce some audio, but I don't have the patience to listen to noise for hours on end. BTW, I'm about 165 miles from Syracuse. WHEN-620 puts in a solid groundwave signal here (Barry McLarnon, Ont, *ibid.*)

And here as well, at about 80 miles. Try at :00 and :30; the

announcement seems to run (with LOTS of modulation!) within a minute of both. Latest word is that WV2X0A is testing only from 9 AM until 5 PM daily s (Fybush, ibid.)

WV2X0A is an experimental callsign, they don't tend to end up in the broadcast databases. About the only place I ever see them is in the Public Notices - and some of them don't make it there either. Or, they show up well after the fact. (IIRC an experimental "event broadcasting" station at the Super Bowl showed up on the FCC website in April...)

| We used a 100 foot Rohn 25 tower series fed and a 5 kw transmitter

To get WAY off topic (grin) reports on some of the ham forums suggest the Rohn company is in financial trouble - which makes one wonder who would supply STL towers and towers for small AM stations (not to mention hams!) if Rohn were to go under... (Doug Smith, ibid.)

WV2X0A Syracuse NY noted Sat AM 9/13 with open carrier, IDing only at 1001 and 1031 EDT with "Testing at 700 kHz, this is WV2X0A" Of course, very strong signal here (Fred Nordquist, Clay NY (~ 8 mi north of Syracuse NY, ibid.)

** U S A. Commentary: THE FCC, LPFM, AND THIRD-CHANNEL INTERFERENCE

Last week, in resuming these Commentaries after a long interval, I wrote that I felt compelled to do so, despite my age and declining energy of will, because of the stupidity, crassness, and greed abundant everywhere. This week, the topic of LPFM comes up again.

When the FCC initiated the low-power FM (LPFM) service in 2001, it was following other nations around the world in response to an international treaty in which the signatories promised to open broadcast radio frequencies to ``the people.`` In opening up the LPFM service, the FCC said that it would be willing to accept applications and license stations that were separated from local full-power stations (of the varying classes) by only three instead of four channels. That means, instead of having an LPFM separated by 0.8 MHz from a local station (for example, on 100.3 FM when the local full-power station was 101.1 FM), it could be separated by only 0.6 MHz (for example, on 100.5 FM when the local station was 101.1 FM).

There was an immediate hue and cry from commercial broadcasters, who went to Congress, which passed the law forbidding the FCC to authorize any stations separated by three channels until an objective scientific study could be done. That in effect vitiated 80% of the LPFM applications that had been received. Most of these have been dismissed, including a number of Catholic applications.

Here was another instance of a federal regulatory agency being run by the very people it purports to regulate. One commercial broadcaster argued in the trade press that he had invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in constructing his station and following regulations in order to serve the public, to be competed against by LPFM outfits who invested a piddling sum and need not follow most of the regulations he had to follow. Other commercial broadcasters argued that there was no need for LPFM stations; that community needs were being served by them, and that any service an LPFM offered would be so marginal as to make it impossible to survive economically.

Here were curious arguments from the commercial crowd: They should not receive any competition from LPFM stations because they had invested so much in their own stations. Whatever happened to American free enterprise and the competitive spirit, the spirit that moves fathers to involve their sons in team sports, to push them out on soccer fields on frosty mornings or to step up to bat in torrid July heat? Apparently American free enterprise and competitive spirit do not apply to American broadcasting.

Then the commercial broadcasters argued that, well anyway, what LPFM stations could offer was already being offered by commercial stations. If that is so, then why do they argue against new LPFM stations? If they are already offering what the oncoming LPFM stations will offer, then they will have no real competition! One wonders if they really believe their own arguments. Finally, they argued, trying to cover all bases, if LPFM's do offer something they do not, then it will be so marginal and attract so few listeners as to be nonviable. Again, one wonders if they follow any logic at all. If the competition will be in fact so marginal, than it is effectively no competition at all! If it is no competition, why are they opposed? The LPFM's are not being built or supported by public tax money.

The sorriest argument came from public radio in general and National Public Radio in particular. The public stations welcomed no more competition from community-based LPFM stations than commercial broadcasters did, even though public radio stations purportedly serve the needs of the community in a way that commercial stations cannot and do not. Worse, National Public Radio argued that third-channel separated LPFM would interfere with the reading services for the blind offered on NPR stations' multiplexed (SCA) channels!

This was the sword they waved to Congress and to the FCC, and in public. Liberals have no shame. Every time the liberal Democrats and their leader, President Bill Clinton, wanted to enact another piece of legislation over the face of opposition, they argued that they ``were doing it for the nation's children.'' Only heaven knows how many laws

owe their existence to the trumpeted benefit ``to America's children.'' But NPR exceeded this temerity. It argued that they were opposing what in effect would become 80% of the LPFM applications out of concern, not for any competition for listeners they, the NPR group, would experience from community-oriented LPFM --- oh, no, nothing like that! --- but for concern for the blind. They could not bear to see the blind not be able to receive their programs of newspapers, magazines and books being read to them because of interference allegedly to be caused by all those new, third-channel separated LPFM! Mind you, they did not argue against LPFM third-channel separation because these might interfere with public radio SCA services in general, but because they allegedly would interfere with services for the blind! There were no such major arguments from commercial FM stations offering SCA services, even though such SCA's are leased operations and are a profit source for commercial stations. Commercial FM stations whose SCA's might be interfered with by third-channel LPFMs stand a lot more to lose than public radio stations, who cannot lease out their SCA's, at least for more than what it costs to put them on the air.

Mind you, there **was not** and **is not** a shred of evidence that such would happen. But NPR unscrupulously used the argument of concern for the blind to thwart competition. Last week, Bob Edwards, the NPR ``Morning Edition'' anchor, told the Nashville Tennessean that NPR personnel were organizing a union because it was impossible to deal with NPR management otherwise. ``A nonprofit thinks it's doing God's work, whether it's NPR, the Red Cross or NATO. They're doing God's work and how can you argue with God? --- that's their attitude.'' That certainly is the attitude of NPR. The management is not above using the blind as a weapon in their arsenal to thwart competition from LPFM stations. Liberals are indeed shameless.

Well, in early August, the nonprofit organization hired by the FCC to do the third-channel interference study, the MITRE Corporation, issued its report, finding that LPFM stations can indeed be technically licensed three channels away from local stations, and that any problems caused by the new LPFM stations would occur within only a short distance of the full-power station transmitters. Since most transmitters are located in rural areas or atop high buildings, the interference to some receivers would be equivalent to only the radius of a city block.

``Following that suggestion could engender many more of the tiny, low-wattage noncommercial stations,'' Current, the publication of the public broadcasting industry, sniffed. ``That would give more wannabe broadcasters access to the airwaves but also permit interference that could eat away at the fringes of public radio signals.'' Current's attitude, certainly that of most of its readers, was ``no matter, they

will still cause interference.'' Its description of LPFM applicants as ''wannabe broadcasters'' is a piece of sorry journalism: ''Wannabe'' is a favorite put-down word of journalists when they describe someone whose goals are not in agreement with their own.

Current does report that the Prometheus Group, which champions LPFM, and others were enthusiastic, particularly in that the study found out that third-channel separation would not interfere with stations that offered reading services for the blind or other SCA channels, or that programmed quieter, less modulated programming such as classical music, or with other stations over radios except within a ''few meters'' of the transmitter of the LPFM station.

A changed mind was that of consulting engineer Doug Vernier, a former public radio station manager. ''There's, frankly, enough spectrum out there that third-adjacents aren't going to cause a significant problem to public radio at this point,'' he told Current. ''I wouldn't have said that several years ago, but I think that we have seen enough proof that radios are good enough today that it isn't a huge issue. The MITRE study is more proof of the pudding.''

The FCC had asked for comments until September 12, but just this week in response to a request by NPR and its consulting engineering service, it extended the comment period. Nevertheless, one of the FCC bureaucrats told Radio & Records that it would not be doing anything about the MITRE report in the near future. From the FCC's track record under this Republican administration, we can reasonably conclude that no decisions will be taken that annoy its big corporate friends in any way. As for the third-channel separation opponents, there is little doubt they will remain unreconstructed opponents. If so, we now know them for what they are, the public broadcasters in particular. So much for ''God's work'' of serving the public and doing what is best for the community. They are out for number one, folks.

--- Michael Dorner, editor

Note --- Late this past week, the FCC announced that it would quickly open a rulemaking to settle the hundreds of conflicting LPFM applications, reversing its original rule and allowing applicants to come to mutual agreements and eliminate the conflicts by choosing alternate frequencies. Nothing was said about the third-channel matter, since the Commission has extended its deadline for comments, at the request of National Public Radio (Catholic Radio Update Aug 25 via DXLD)

** U S A. EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: DONNA & CRAIG QRT AT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Craig and Donna are gone. The electronically assembled speech of the

two lasted just one year as the automated voices of the National Weather Service. Taking their place is next-generation called Tom. He is programmed in such a way that the speed and intensity of his computer-generated voice can be adjusted to make severe weather warnings sound more urgent and emotional. More is on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/6454213.htm> (CGC via Amateur Radio Newsline Sept 12 via John Norfolk, DXLD)

**** U S A. FCC RULES 'HOWARD STERN' MEETS STANDARD OF A NEWS SHOW**

By Paul Farhi, Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, September 10, 2003; Page C01

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51802-2003Sep9.html>

It's official: "The Howard Stern Show" -- the popular morning radio program that features flatulence humor, lesbian sex talk, and ridicule of minorities and the handicapped -- is a bona fide news show just like "Meet the Press" or "The CBS Evening News."

The Federal Communications Commission accorded Stern's show that status yesterday in granting it an exemption from federal equal-time rules, which enable candidates to demand airtime from television and radio stations when their rivals have been interviewed or featured on the air.

For weeks, Stern has been trying to interview Arnold Schwarzenegger about his candidacy for California governor. But Stern's employer, Infinity Broadcasting, worried that a Schwarzenegger interview would open the door for the 134 other candidates in the recall election to demand equal time on the program.

Faced with a logistical nightmare, Infinity asked the FCC to give Stern a pass. Its seemingly long-shot argument: Stern's program qualified for an exemption because his show has elements of a legitimate news-interview program. Congress long ago exempted news shows from the equal-time rules, under the notion that news coverage stimulates political involvement.

Yesterday the commission's mass media bureau ruled in Infinity's favor, saying the news interview segments of Stern's show were news and therefore exempt. It cited a 1984 ruling that granted the TV talk show "Donahue" a similar exemption. At the time, the commission said it would be "unsound" to rule against programs that offered "a unique or innovative approach to interviewing its guests."

The ruling will allow Stern to interview Schwarzenegger on his program, which is heard on 44 stations nationwide, including locally on WJFK-FM (106.7). But more broadly, the FCC -- which is controlled by deregulatory-minded conservatives -- signaled that it would go easy

on enforcing the equal-time rules, which have been in existence since 1934. The commission said entertainment programs similar to Stern's, which feature some news elements, would qualify for exemptions in the future.

"What this means is that every 'morning zoo' disc jockey whose brother-in-law is running for city council can put him on the air without worrying about giving equal time to anyone else," said Andrew Jay Schwartzman, a communications lawyer who heads the Media Access Project in Washington. "They've removed the notion that a bona fide news interview show is supposed to apply to journalists. If Howard Stern is a real journalist, real journalists should be upset."

Barbara Cochran, president of the Radio and TV News Directors Association, declined to comment yesterday, saying she wanted to study the ruling.

Infinity's Washington lawyer, Steve Lerman, said yesterday that the FCC "made the correct decision," considering the string of news exemptions it has awarded to other programs. Indeed, in its ruling, the FCC noted that since the "Donahue" decision in 1984, it has exempted such shows as "Sally Jessy Raphael," "Jerry Springer" and "Politically Incorrect" from granting equal time.

Until yesterday, the FCC hasn't been much of a fan of Stern. Since 1989, the commission has fined him repeatedly for violations of its "indecentcy" standards, based on his raunchy patter.

But Lerman said yesterday: "They didn't draw a distinction based on what they think of Howard Stern personally. They did what they thought was right." © 2003 The Washington Post Company (via Mike Brooker, Toronto, ON, NRC-AM via DXLD)

** U S A. BROADCAST BAND UPDATE by Greg Hardison, Sept 12

CHANGING TIMES: "Radio On The Right" is turning to a different direction within the next six months or so. The announcement came this week, of the impending sale of KPLS-830, from the remnants of what once was an offshoot of the Catholic Church, to RadioVisa, a Los Angeles group chaired by Stephen Lehman. You may recall him as one of the founders of Premiere Networks, which has gone on to some measure of success under the Clear Channel banner. Lehman plans to forge a national Spanish-language network, using KPLS as his flagship --- and it's a field ripe for plowing.

The last 2.5 or so decades have seen three notable efforts at such an animal: first, Mutual radio (remember them?) attempted a go at a nationwide Spanish chain back in the late 1970s --- long before the

explosive growth of the U.S.-Hispanic populace across our nation's Southern tier; as I recall the plug was pulled within two years. There also was a CBS-Spanish net effort, which mostly emphasized Sports, especially MLB contests. For all I know this may still exist, but if so, their Publicity allocation is zilch. (KTNQ-1020 was, or is, the L.A. outlet). Also, for at least a couple of the early-90's years, we heard RadioCentro in many U.S. markets, trying to be a top-of-hour-News-type chain. This also was ill-fated, but well-funded, by the Mexico City-based group of the same name --- which continues a long-standing successful operation in Earth's largest city helmed at XEQR-1030.

As we speak, the only existing U.S.-national Spanish net is Radio /nica, which in just a few years has built an impressive market presence in many of the largest Hispanic communities, especially in the West. /nica has had some fiscal woes, though, manifested by some missed loan-interest payments earlier in the year; they also went to a greater musical-programming emphasis as summer began, thus cutting overhead from an expensive news/talk-heavy slate. KPLS is up to 50,000 nondirectional daytime watts, and a fairly decent signal in most local areas --- with documented reception as far East as Illinois and Kentucky; their nighttime spew is 23,000 watts directional, covering most of Orange and L.A. Counties, and doing justice to Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, as well.

Related Programming losses? No more George Putnam weekdays at Noon; my least-favorite loss from this involves Fred Wallin's nighttime Sports show --- give it a listen (10 PM PT) if you can; you'll note that Fred's the only guy who runs a sports show with an almost-musical "beat". Fred's our most underrated sports-talker (NOT referring to Arbitron, here) --- and has been since being shafted by a particularly egregious KABC Program Director, circa 1989. Otherwise, frankly, I'm not too sorry to see it go. That comes from years of producing Talkradio in the '80s and '90s, when Objectivity still had a useful meaning.

Elsewhere, the venerable WDAF-610 in Kansas City is biting down on the dust. WDAF has been a full-service country & western-oriented outlet for at least 50 years, with one of the best 5,000 watt signals in North America (heard regularly at night anywhere between Arizona and Georgia). Their format and call letters are migrating to 106.5 FM, licensed to suburban Liberty, MO, and with a signal pretty much limited to areas between Chillicothe, MO and Topeka, KS. Fellow traveler Paul Swearingen, one of Topeka's finest high school educators, confirms the programming switch as of Thursday 9/11 (appropriately enough), with the AM-610 stick now conducting an all-Sports format, and preparing a call-letter change to KCSP; how innovative.

Up by the Bay, The Wave is no more. CBS/Infinity has pulled the plug on KKVV-93.3 FM, and it's eclectic mix of "smooth jazz", oldies and the more obscure side of adult contemporary. One would think such a format would work well in the San Francisco market, but again, an apparent lack of marketing has flattened The Wave. Meanwhile, The (Original) Wave, KTWW-94.7, continues it's success in Los Angeles, mixing the semi-contrived "smooth jazz" list with a healthy mix of rhythm & blues oldies (the latter of which is certainly 'music' to my own aging ears!).

And in NYC, Infinity's "Blink" is shedding tears and identity; rumour has it that WNEW-FM-102.7 is going to a more "mainstream" Adult Contemporary approach, apeing the success of Clear Channel's WLTW-106.7. The "Blink" has been heavy on geewhizish celebrity news tidbits, interspersed with a music mix described as anywhere between "innovative" and "strange". Of course, many good people are hitting the unemployment lines there as a result.

WHILE WE'RE IN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD: And, noting the recent passing of one more 9/11, do check out this two-year old report from our man Scott Fybush, the guru of Northeastern radio news...

<http://www.fybush.com/wtc-recovery.html> to see how the market scrambled to restore its presence.

BUYERS 'N' SELLERS: It seems GE/NBC may be close to cutting a deal to purchase Vivendi's entertainment properties, most notably Universal Studios. One knowledgeable wag, Don Paschal of Los Angeles, has been speculating for years of a possible Clear Channel/NBC alliance. Could be, could be...certainly a CC/NBC/Universal partnership would be a new 600-pound gorilla in media; one notes the hookup between CC's New York radio stations, and WNBC-TV/4, to provide coverage of the recent massive blackout there. Presumably, the presence of the massive CC/KFI newsroom would prevent the necessity of such a pact with KNBC-TV/4 in Los Angeles, when we have our next 12-point Quake. We shall eventually see.

LAWYERS WITH NO LIVES: I can truly see both sides in the ongoing debate between the Recording Industry Association of America, and those who obtain Music from the web without costs. But, c'mon guys, suits against individuals?? According to the Associated Press (via "The Atlanta Journal"), some of those targeted by lawsuits include an elderly man in Texas who rarely uses his computer, a Yale University professor and an unemployed woman in New York who says she didn't know she was breaking the law. The Texan says his Grandchildren were downloading on his machine; and the Yalie claimed to have pulled approximately 500 tunes off the Net. The mother of 12 year old New

Yorker Brianna Lahara has settled the RIAA action against her daughter for the sum of \$2,000. (In that case, Sylvia Torres asserts that Brianna is no longer involved in such activities, according to AllAccess; the family computer was reportedly used for the downloading of some 1000 titles.) "I am sorry for what I have done. I love music and don't want to hurt the artists I love," said Brianna.

Said RIAA Chairman and CEO MITCH BAINWOL, "We're trying to send a strong message that you are not anonymous when you participate in peer-to-peer file sharing and that the illegal distribution of copyrighted music has consequences. And as this case illustrates, parents need to be aware of what their children are doing on their computers. I am pleased we have settled the first of yesterday's announced lawsuits, and it's been signed, sealed, and delivered." --- Both quotes lifted from the superb <http://www.allaccess.com> website.

THE Q CONTINUUM: SDRadio.net informs us that the former mega-rocker KCBQ-1170 is running 5,000 watts day/375 watts night from the nondirectional KPOP-1360 tower site in San Diego. Many folks in northern and eastern SD County, and up the coast to Santa Barbara, are reporting improved reception. Perhaps Salem/KCBQ should consider making the arrangement permanent, if they can get the nod from Clear Channel/KPOP. Some of you know that KCBQ was traditionally 50,000 VERY-directional watts during daytime hours, and their earlier nighttime signal was reduced from 5,000 to 1,500 watts many years ago. KCBQ could benefit from being heard elsewhere besides downtown San Diego, and in and over the saltwater between Coronado and Tahiti where not too many listeners regularly reside. Could save some serious \$\$, as well, for Salem. The latter has reaped financial rewards for its last-year sale of KLTX-1390 in L.A., and is of course reaping Godzillions by brokering the two Sunday-night hours, in which we used to hear Ray Briem on KRLA-870. Of course they are...

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?: Robert Gonsett's engineer-oriented e-newsletter reveals that Clear Channel is applying for some sort of 107.9-FM translator in San Marcos --- in northern San Diego County, and very well within the signal area of full-powered Calvary Church outlet KWVE, San Clemente, which transmits from 5500+-foot high Santiago Peak, on the Orange/Riverside County Line. KWVE is a stand-alone station, ownership-wise; Clear Channel is known to have a few additional outlets here and there. I have no intense love or hate for either party, but someone at CC should learn how to read maps! Rep. Howard Berman (D/Van Nuys) has called for an overall investigation into Clear Channel's market-grabbing tactics, but methinks it's more of a publicity play, than anything substantial. Besides, CC-head Lowry Mays has recently intoned that his firm owns "only" a little over 1200 of the Nation's 10,000-plus Radio stations (a fact, but one must note that the 10,000-plus figure includes Public stations). While we're

there, CC has forged a marketing relationship with non-commercial KUSC-91.5, which has raised the hackles of independent L.A./S.F. station owner Saul Levine (KSUR-1260, KMZT-FM-105.1, and KTIM-1510 in S.F.) Saul has petitioned the FCC to count such arrangements under the banner of station ownership; if he succeeds, Clear Channel would either have to end the KUSC-pact, or unload one of its profitable L.A. commercial facilities. Saul speaks from experience; he has his own recently-forged agreement with Minnesota Public Radio's SoCal stick, KPCC-89.3. Saul spoke in Burbank last weekend at a gathering hosted by L.A.'s Prime Minister of Radio Information, Don Barrett. The 72 year old, very healthy Levine was asked what the fate of his stations would be upon his inevitable demise. His 27 year old daughter has vowed to carry the torch of independent-ownership --- although she's expressed desires to "go after" the KROQ-FM audience. Will we one day see KMZT-FM go from Bach to Beck, while the young lady fights off myriad multi-million dollar offers for the powerful 105.1 signal??

POWELL SPEAKS: A recent piece in "The Chicago Tribune" featured the thoughts of FCC Chairman Michael Powell (known in some circles as Colin's Idiot Son). Among other observations, Mikey fears the disappearance of free-commercial television, to the benefit of pay-Cable and Satellite offerings. Surprise! -- His solution is to allow the mega-TV-broadcasters to own more stations. It's all somewhat reminiscent of identical fears expressed by various pundits back around 1963, when the move to ban Pay-TV was afoot in Washington. You may recall, Pay-TV was not banned, and we do indeed still have free-commercial-TV, to pepper us with infomercials and "reality" shows.

Powell says all of his actions as FCC-head have been "pro-consumer". He notes that for the first time, cable viewership has passed such numbers enjoyed by "the big three" and their cultural descendants, in 2003. He says free-TV could be gone by 2013, but made no mention of the mandate that all U.S. broadcast-television outlets convert to Digital mode by 2006. Odds are, the conversions will take a few years longer, as all American households scramble funds to replace their soon-to-be-antiquated analog TVs with those of the digital breed. Has anyone tabulated the dollars being exchanged through increased purchases of wide-screen ANALOG sets --- that will require Digital Converters, at the very least, within the next few years? Just thought I'd ask. Powell also expressed fears that the U.S. telephone infrastructure could soon see failures similar to those which apparently caused the great Northeast Blackout last month. Good stuff as usual from the Trib!

YOUR PLANS FOR 9/20: If you're anywhere in or near Orange County, come join us for a Saturday picnic/get-together at Central Park, off Edwards Av in Huntington Beach. This annual deal is hosted by correspondents Stewart Mackenzie and Bill Fisher, the brains and

hearts behind the Southern California Association of DXers. If you ever wanted to know about shortwave listening possibilities, or you want to share some of your own, this is the place to be, September 20 anytime between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Bring your own food, family members, radios 'n' antennas, Arbitron diaries, et al, for some interesting conversation and sea-breeze-fueled temperatures under 110; if food is a no-go, you'll find a friendly little Diner very close to the park entrance. Remember, this is the Edwards Av entrance we're talking about. Until the Next, Peace and Prosperity (GREG HARDISON, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U S A. New pirate? 91.3, Erdenheim, PA "EPR - Erdenheim Public Radio" on the NNW fringe of Philadelphia, about 4 miles south of me -- ugh! Website: <http://www.eprfm.org> (Russ Edmunds, Blue Bell, PA (15 mi NNW Philadelphia) , Sept 13, NRC FMTV via DXLD)

** VIETNAM [non]. I've just got round to listening to a recording of the Degar Voice broadcast on 9th September 1301-1327. As usual, it crash-started with the programme already in progress. The very last word of a 15-minute (approx.) talk in Degar (presumed) was "Amen", followed by a short piece of ethnic music and a switch to Vietnamese. So it would appear that these broadcasts are religious in nature... You can hear a clip of this on the Interval Signals Archive at <http://www.intervalsignals.net> Regards, (Dave Kernick, Sept 12, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

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POWERLINE COMMUNICATIONS

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SHORTWAVE OPERATORS FEAR EFFECTS OF TEST

Thursday, September 11, 2003, By NICK FALSONE, The Express-Times  
<http://pennlive.com/news/expresstimes/pa/index.ssf?/base/news-7/1063271074318460.xml>

HANOVER TWP. -- Blair Bates will be the first to complain if a new technology designed to bring broadband Internet service to homes through radio signals hinders his hobby.

The amateur shortwave radio operator suspects it will, and has made strides to block PPL Corp. of Allentown from launching a 90-day trial run of the service in the township.

Township supervisors have listened to the concerns of Bates and other residents who operate shortwave radios. They opted Tuesday night to allow the trial run, provided PPL addresses any problems that shortwave radio operators might encounter because of the service.

PPL officials said the shortwave operators shouldn't be affected. If there was the potential for a problem, the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates radio frequencies, wouldn't have given the company the green light on commercializing the service, they said.

The technology is relatively new, and PPL is at the forefront. Dubbed "power line communications," it aims to bring high-speed Internet services to residents who can't get the services because their homes aren't properly equipped. A majority of homes nationwide fall into this category.

Power lines are used to transmit Internet signals. Those signals are then sent down to homes near the power lines through high radio frequency.

Bates said that method interferes with shortwave radio. He said it could also interfere with AM radio and some network television stations that can be received using an antenna.

"It is my opinion that the citizens of Hanover Township should not have to endure this virtual radio jamming," he said.

Township Supervisor Frank Colon said there have been a lot of residents commenting on the effects the service would have on shortwave radio since PPL first came to the township with the proposal last month. Bates and Mark S. Miller, another shortwave operator, were the only residents who offered comments during Tuesday night's meeting.

Miller said the interference shortwave radio operators are anticipating will have an impact on more than just a hobby. Many of the operators serve as members of emergency communications groups, and are included in emergency management plans in Northampton and Lehigh counties. Shortwave operators also pitched in for emergency services following the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"What people don't see is (the operators') role in emergency services," Miller said. "It's much more than someone just sitting down in their basement talking to someone in another country."

Alan G. Richenbacher, special projects manager for power line communications at PPL, said the company has no interest in interfering with the shortwave radio operators.

Their allegations are untrue, Richenbacher said, adding the FCC would have detected such interference when it tested the service before giving PPL the go-ahead. Another factor supporting the company's

position is that there have been no complaints from shortwave operators in other areas where the service has been tested, he said. Emmaus, for example, has had the service in effect for about 18 months. None of the operators in that borough have complained, Richenbacher said.

"If (the operators) were unable to practice their hobby, I'm sure they would've let us know," he said. Bates said he won't hesitate to let them know. He said he'll accept the township supervisors' decision for the time being.

"I hear all the assurances," he said. "For the good of all concerned, I'm willing to be a guinea pig and have it in my back yard. But if there are any problems, you'll certainly hear from me."

Richenbacher said the trial run is expected to start next month. It will be offered to residents in the southern portion of the township. Depending on the reaction of the residents who try the service, the company might attempt to make it a permanent service in the township, he said.

If PPL wants to make it permanent, township supervisors would address the issue again, James Broughal, the township's solicitor, said. "It's only 90 days," Broughal said. "They may come back to us and say they're not going to stick around."

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RADIO LAW: AMSAT-NA SAYS NO TO BPL

AMSAT North America has told the FCC that it wants no part of BPL and it has said it twice. Once in comments filed with the regulatory agency in July and in reply comments in August. In both cases AMSAT tells the FCC that it is against proposals to allow Broadband over Power Line systems to proliferate. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, is here with more:

In its filings, AMSAT says that it agrees with the American Radio Relay League's finding that Broadband Over Powerline or BPL is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions. Once deployed, AMSAT says the consumer's expectations will be such as to preclude termination of the service. It says that interference problems, both to and from BPL, will inevitably be both widespread and impossible as a practical matter to rectify.

AMSAT says it bluntly. Amateur and amateur-satellite services cannot be protected from interference from BPL. Also that BPL cannot be

protected from interference from HF and VHF amateur radio stations.

The ham radio space agency also maintains that the rules must insure that BPL is not permitted to operate in or near any amateur radio allocation. If BPL is permitted at all, any changes in amateur radio allocations must immediately trigger retroactive modifications to BPL facilities to delete any use of amateur radio frequencies. In addition, spurious emissions from BPL facilities must be substantially attenuated below current Part 15 levels.

In the end, AMSAT says that it joins ARRL in respectfully requesting that the Commission take no steps to permit access or in-building Broadband Over Powerline at HF or VHF. At least, not at this time.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles. The complete text of all AMSAT FCC filings are posted at <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/amsat-na/filings/index.html> (AMSAT-NA)

#### RADIO LAW: IRTS OBJECTS TO BPL IN IRELAND

Meantime, BPL may soon be coming to Erin's Isle. That's where Power Line Transmission Ireland has announced that it will begin experiments in broadband over powerline connections in October.

Now comes word that IRTS which is that nations Amateur Radio society has been in touch with Irish communications regulators. IRTS has expressed the concern of Irelands ham community that these experiments are now going ahead. It has also requested regulators ensure that BPL can only be permitted in Ireland on a strict non-interference basis with other radio services. (GB2RS)

#### RADIO COMICS: DILBERT ON BPL

As the debate grows it begging to look as if everyone has something to say about the issue of Broadband Over Powerlines or BPL. Now, even comic characters are chiming in. Yes, we said comic characters. In this case it is none other than the character Dilbert and from the text that accompanies the strip, the cartoonist is none to happy with the BPL idea.

This one you will need to judge for yourself. You can find it in cyberspace at <http://www.comics.com/comics/dilbert/archive/dilbert-20030908.html> (W9JUV) (Amateur Radio Newsline Sept 12 via John Norfolk, DXLD)

#### RECEIVER NEWS

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DIGITAL RADIO PRICES SET TO TUMBLE  
Julia Day, Thursday September 11, 2003

The price of digital radio sets is poised to tumble with the announcement that Japanese electronics giant Sony is to enter the market. The cheapest digital radio available at the moment costs £99, but with the first major manufacturer throwing its weight behind the sector, the move towards more affordable sets will accelerate. . .  
<http://media.guardian.co.uk/radio/story/0,12636,1040098,00.html>  
(via Jilly Dybka, KF4ZE0, DXLD)

CONVENTIONS & CONFERENCES  
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THIRD FORUM ITALRADIO, MALTA

<http://www.independent.com.mt/daily/newsview.asp?id=20838>  
Web posted on September 12, 2003 at 9:00:00 AM CET

The Voice of the Mediterranean, the international radio station broadcasting from Malta, in its effort to enhance the contacts between listeners and operators of radio stations in Europe and the Mediterranean, in cooperation with the European DX Council and Forum Italradio, will organise the Third Forum Italradio in Malta on 25 and 26 October at the Marina Hotel, St. Julian's. The forum with the theme Multilingualism and International Radio: A Listeners' and Broadcasters' Forum, is dedicated to multilingualism in international radio. The forum will provide an exchange of experiences between international radio stations in the Italian and English languages, of which Malta represents a most significant example as a country where the two languages live in the archipelago's culture together with the native language.

The broadcasters, coming from different European countries, will share their experiences with the participation of listeners who are members of different European DX Clubs. On the occasion of the Forum, the DX Club Europe will award the Premio Italradio 2003 to the Voice of the Mediterranean, as an example of international cooperation in the Mediterranean. The participants of the forum will visit the new VOM premises in Birkirkara and Campus FM at the University where EDXC will present a digital periodical library (emeroteca) of the multi-lingual newsletters DX of the last three years (Malta Independent via Jilly Dybka, DXLD)

PROPAGATION  
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QST de W1AW -- Propagation Forecast Bulletin 37 ARLP037

From Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, WA September 12, 2003

To all radio amateurs SB PROP ARL ARLP037, ARLP037 Propagation de K7RA

Daily sunspot numbers took a dive this week, with the average dropping 47 points from last week to 56.1. Solar flux declined a little over 18 points. Sunspot numbers on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 9 and 10, were quite low, 43 and 42. This is quite a contrast from a year ago, when Tuesday and Wednesday of the same week had sunspot numbers of 226 and 213.

Coincidentally, last year's bulletin for the week September 5th through 11th showed a comparison from the year before, when conditions were even better. The 2002 bulletin reports that the solar flux the year before was 42 points higher and sunspot numbers were greater by 34.

A nice thing this week was lower geomagnetic indices, which were best on September 7-8. On September 7 the normally high College A index (measured in Fairbanks, Alaska) was all the way down to 2, which is very quiet. Over the local evening time in Fairbanks, the K index was 0 for 18 hours straight! It was either 0 or 1 for a continuous 36 hours. We have been inside a strong solar wind this week, but the interplanetary magnetic field has been pointing north, which protects the earth's magnetic field and keeps A and K indices low.

We are drawing closer to the fall equinox, only about 10 days off. This is a prime time for HF DX, because the solar radiation reaching earth is equal in northern and southern hemispheres. The day is exactly 12 hours long, regardless of whether you are on the equator or at either pole.

This weekend is the Worked All Europe SSB Contest. Let's see how the vast difference in sunspot numbers might affect propagation this week when compared to a year ago.

Using the September 10, 2002 sunspot number of 226 with the W6ELprop software, plotting a 20-meter path from Chicago to Germany shows it closes about four and a half hours later than it would on the same date with a sunspot number of 42. At 42, 15 meters has a low probability of opening from 1630-2130z, but with the higher numbers, conditions on 15 meters look excellent from 1300-2330z.

On 75 meters, we see the opposite effect. With the lower numbers, peak signal strength is several decibels higher than it would be last year. A good opening this year would be at 2300-0700z, and last year at 2330-0600z.

Over the weekend, expect stable geomagnetic conditions. Solar flux should rise above 100, peaking around 120 from September 17-19.

David Moore sent in an interesting article about solar wind from SpaceRef.com. You can read it at <http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=12504>

Sunspot numbers for September 4 through 10 were 79, 57, 60, 54, 58, 43, and 42, with a mean of 56.1. 10.7 cm flux was 112.2, 108, 104.9, 107.8, 98.8, 95.9, and 99.3, with a mean of 103.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 19, 16, 12, 10, 9, 19, and 19, with a mean of 14.9.

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